

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 14, 1988

Published Since 1877

## China's young people searching for faith

By Erich Bridges

SHANGHAI, China (BP) — A Sunday afternoon walk in Shanghai can be frightening.

At certain times of the day, one does not walk at all. One clings to a wall for safety. Or allows oneself to be carried by the human river that rushes through Shanghai with almost violent force. Fortunately, the workers of China's largest city labor in shifts. If all the 18 million people of the city walked about at once, one imagines the streets might sag beneath their weight — and the weight of their expectations.

Anticipation hangs in the air these days; also frustration, energy and boredom, hope and despair. On the streets of China, the spirit of communism now competes with the spirit of the individual. And of the 1.1 billion people in China, more than 700 million, or nearly three times the U.S. population, are under age 35.

China today is an almost endless series of contrasts between young and old. The nation has entered the space race while farmers in some provinces still pull their plows with their backs. Television tributes to socialist modernization share air time with the recently introduced, and enormously popular, Donald Duck. The construction crane, nicknamed the "national bird" of China, coexists with structures as old as recorded history.

As the West now knows, China is in

a continuous state of transition — economic, social, political, spiritual. It is permanent revolution, but not the kind Chairman Mao dreamed of. The government and the Communist Party, the workers and the intellectuals, the students and the teachers, the young and the old all are struggling to decide what post-Mao China will be like.

Will it follow Marx, or the stock market? Confucius, or Western thought?

The turmoil of the last century in China has uprooted the traditions of thousands of years. But something must take their place. "The young generation feels a spiritual crisis," writes one Chinese college student.

"This is a very important problem which needs to be solved. Sociologists should establish a new system of thought education for 'hungry' young Chinese."

A classroom full of university students in Nanjing was asked to define happiness:

"Friendship is most important," answered one.

"No," interjected another. "The most important thing is good health, so you can earn money and get a pretty girl."

"A position in society," declared a third.

Other responses reflected the yearning to be understood, to have a good

job or more freedom. But one student offered this reaction: true happiness, he said, "is spiritual."

While their generation debates the meaning of life, a steadily growing number of young Chinese are finding it in Christianity. And their expanding ranks are attracting attention.

"Many young people are going to church," a newspaper in Guangzhou reported. "Five years ago only old people attended. But now young people in blue jeans are going."

The newspaper correspondent, a Communist Party member, went to a local church and interviewed some of the young people going inside for a worship service. "Everything I've heard in the last 10 years has been false and boring," one student told him. "I don't want to be like that. I'm also not impressed by dating, disco, and such things. But when I come to church and sing the hymns, in my spirit I feel very pure and peaceful."

The curious reporter was surprised to discover a crowded sanctuary and a choir composed entirely of young adults. "These young people, these workers and students, are human beings with a spiritual nature," he wrote. "The Communist Party policy and the new laws guarantee religious freedom, so anyone can freely go to church. But in all society, parents, teachers, factory leaders, cadres and intellectuals should do ideological

work (upholding atheism). Do you not understand this challenge?"

Whether or not his readers understood the challenge, the reporter surely did. In the Chinese marketplace of ideas, Christianity has once again emerged as a force to be reckoned with. It actually never left, but repression drove it beneath the surface for a time. Freedom to worship has been restored and constitutionally guaranteed after the rabidly anti-religious persecution of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. And the church is presenting spiritual answers to the searching questions of a new generation.

There is no mass movement of youth toward the church, to be sure.

It is more like a trickle.

"I am the only Christian in my institute," admitted one young graduate student at a research department of prestigious Beijing University. "It is very hard to express Jesus. Most of the students are atheists. They think religion is stupid, superstitious. But I have one classmate who has seen the change in my life."

The student's parents, both of whom are Communist Party members, disagree with her beliefs. But they have decided to respect her wish to follow Christ and allow her the freedom to do so.

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



EXPECTATIONS — Of the 1.1 billion people in China, more than 700 million (nearly three times the U.S. population) are under age 35. Like these young people on the streets of Shanghai, they are reshaping their expectations of life as

Chinese society changes. "The young generation feels a spiritual crisis," writes one Chinese college student. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo



YOUNG AND OLD — "Many young people are going to church," a newspaper in China reports. "Five years ago only old people attended. But now young people in blue jeans are going." (BP) PHOTO by Joanna Pinneo



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## We can do no other

We can only wish Lewis Drummond well as he assumes the presidency of Southeastern Seminary. He has been the Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary.

It is a troubled situation into which Drummond has stepped. Randall Lolley, who had been president for 14 years and who had asked to be able to remain until July 1, was a popular administrator at the seminary. He announced his resignation last fall after trustees had altered the process by which faculty members at the seminary had been chosen. He had wanted to stay through graduation but noted that he would leave when a new president was elected. Drummond took the reins on April 1.

It seems strange in the light of Lolley's hope to remain through graduation that a classroom teacher, who had to leave his teaching duties, would be called in before the end of the semester.

An interview that is circulating indicates that Lolley resigned because in the future only those who will teach according to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement that the Bible is "truth without any mixture of error" will fill faculty positions. But that is not the case. Faculty members had to sign that or a similar statement while Lolley was there. He left because the trustees had eliminated the feature in faculty hiring that allowed faculty members a voice in

naming new faculty members. Giving the faculty a voice in faculty replacements is a common seminary practice. Since they were cut out of the process, causing Lolley's departure, the faculty is not likely to be happy with the circumstances.

That will make it tough on Drummond. Lolley was popular also with the students. Perhaps Drummond will be as well.

Drummond knows about the challenge that he faces. He feels that the Lord has sent him there to bring reconciliation. He has asked Southern Baptists to pray that the Lord will step into the situation.

Surely we can do no other.

## Haywood N. Stubble



IT'S ELEVEN O'CLOCK, SUNDAY MORNING—  
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHURCH IS?

## Guest opinion . . . One missionary doctor's viewpoint

## Our problem — a diagnosis

### Second of Two Parts

By Sam Cannata, M.D.

In I Cor. 3:1-4, Paul addressed this congregation as mere infants in Christ because they had jealousy and quarreling among them and were unable to walk together because of divisions and factions. What do you think he would say about Southern Baptists today? We are the same only on a much larger scale, and it includes all of us: pastors, denominational leaders, theologians, scholars, and members in the pews. I continue to say that our division and contention is due to our fruitlessness and the fact that God is not actively at work in our midst. On the other hand, as long as we continue in pursuing this controversy, we remain babes, and fruitless, therefore, God cannot use us, nor bless us.

Some will say, "You have no right to say all these harsh things about our convention and our churches." I reply that I have every right to say them. I am a product of our convention; I was converted and grew up in one of our churches. I was not disciplined, but I was given a vision of a lost world through our denomination. At Baylor University I heard the call of God to become a missionary, and I responded to that call. In 1957 I married my lovely wife, also a product of our denomination, and a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

We sailed for Africa in 1958 to become missionaries in Zimbabwe. We were nine years in Zimbabwe and nine years in Ethiopia, and in 1977 we were forced out of Ethiopia due to political turmoil. For almost 20 years we did only what we knew to do — that which all Southern Baptists do. We preached the gospel and brought people to the point of making decisions.

But after leaving Ethiopia the Lord

asked us a tough question. He said, "What did you leave there that was really lasting?" I had preached to thousands in my mobile clinics. I had told them about Jesus, told them how to confess their sins and open their hearts to him. I gave tracts to back up my message. But when we left, we weren't sure that we had left anything that was really lasting!

What a devastating revelation! Twenty years of mission work! The Lord pointed out that we had been scattering seed but not really planting them.

Later we discovered that our lasting ministry in Ethiopia was not the big clinic ministry to the masses but one with a small group of believers who came to our house at least two times a week for Bible study. However, we shared with them on many other occasions as we reciprocated fellowship in our homes, at weddings, funerals, births, etc. In short, we spent lots of time with them. This group stood up bravely against the persecution that came.

Without knowing it or planning it, we had made some disciples. But all along I thought my big contribution was preaching to the masses. I was wrong. How did we get away from God's plan? Jesus showed us the way and the early disciples followed His example. They made disciples who in turn made disciples. (II Tim. 2:2) As a result, "they turned the world upside down."

Now, wherever we go, we try to invest our lives in the lives of individuals and small groups. In Sudan among the Murle tribe, God gave us a few hungry hearts and spoke to them in mighty ways through His Word

over a period of two years of almost constant teaching. They became fruitful disciples and have multiplied greatly in the ensuing years despite a civil war going on around them. They became disciples and they are making disciples.

When we left, many of them had barely learned to read but were already teaching others to read so they could grow in God's Word, which had become their guide for life. Friends, let me tell you, experiences like these are exciting.

It is always exciting when we see God at work in the lives of others because at the same time he is at work in our lives. It is not exciting to see what is happening in our midst right now. When God is working, everyone will be praising him to such an extent that all of us, moderates, conservatives, fundamentalists, charismatics, and any other label you care to add, will not have time to argue. We will just get on with the job of making more disciples in preparation for our Lord's coming again.

What do we do now? Throw up our hands in despair? NO! Let's just confess our sins, claim God's forgiveness, and start making disciples! Do you think we could say that out of almost 15 million on our church rolls that we could find 150,000 disciple makers? If each one of them spent one year making one disciple and then each in turn spent the next year making disciples, at the end of two years there would be 600,000 disciples. at the end of seven years there would be 19,200,000, and at the end of eight years there would be 38,400,000, far beyond anything we could imagine at our present rate of growth.

Professional Secretaries' Week is April 25-29. That is Monday through Friday, so it will give churches an opportunity to pay tribute to their secretaries on Sunday before the week begins.

Surely those secretaries who serve on church staffs are professional in every sense of the word, and they are surely a vital portion of the church staff.

The last full week in April is Professional Secretaries' Week, and Wednesday of that week is Professional Secretaries' Day. This time of observation should not go unnoticed.

Someone has penned, "A good secretary does much more than typing, filing, and answering the phone. She is a partner in ministry, a source of information, a catalyst, a mediator between congregation and staff, and often a buffer absorbing abuse and interruptions."

Truly they are a part of the ministry team.

So also it must be pointed out that the five ladies who serve in secretarial positions at the Baptist Record are vital staff members who serve in capacities no less important than the editorial staff. Because it is a newspaper, the editorial staff

This is God's plan for winning the world. It worked in the First Century, and with God's power it will work in our day in the same way. And with the Lord working in us and through us like this we wouldn't have time to argue!

For a fatal disease this would be a remarkable cure!

Sam Cannata, a missionary doctor, is married to the former Virginia Curry of Greenville.

## Tribute for secretaries

members receive most of the attention, but the paper could not function without the efforts of the five who serve in the other capacities. They are classified as secretaries, but being secretaries is only a portion of their work.

Each of them does secretarial work. Each of them has a variety of additional areas of work that are vital cogs in the Baptist Record machinery.

Evelyn Keyes is the advertising coordinator. She is in touch daily with advertisers all over the nation, determining rates, making up ads and making decisions that affect the income and the usable space of the Baptist Record. She also handles advertising content and make up of Baptist Record institutional ads.

Florence Larrimore is editorial assistant. As the proof reader, she is the first person to read the Baptist Record. She is also the photographic finisher for the paper and handles this work in as professional a manner as anyone in the city. This requires a great deal of skill and knowledge. She also writes news items for such material as Names in the News, Just for the Record, anniversaries, revival reports, and other items about Mississippi Baptists.

Renee Walley is the circulation assistant. She spends a great deal of time working on erroneous addresses; and she designed and helped to work into the system a highly complicated computer arrangement for keeping up with those with wrong addresses, what to do about them, and when to drop them if nothing can be done. She also conceives and designs circulation promotion programs.

Renee Walley and Evelyn Keyes work (Continued on page 5)

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 112 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 10  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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## Jail helps missionaries

TONINCHUN, Guatemala — Missionaries Wendall Parker and Keith Stamps landed in jail in February, and it helped their ministry. The two weren't arrested. They went to teach a Bible study for a group of 29 Mam Indians being held in connection with murders near the village of Toninchun, where Parker lives. Twenty-seven of the prisoners are not Christians. Stamps is a Mississippian.

For months the missionaries have been searching for ways to begin a ministry among the Mam people. The prisoners have asked the missionaries to teach more Bible studies.



## Cooperative Program Day: Give — and share his Word

At 80 years old, Louisa Korb of Regensburg, West Germany, is still digging into the truth of the Scriptures. Here she makes notes as she studies her Bible at home. In West Germany, the Cooperative Program helps support about 30 Southern Baptist missionaries, the first of whom came to the European nation in 1961. The Southern Baptist Convention has set aside April 17 as Cooperative Program Day to reflect on the unique funding mechanism that helps support thousands of home and foreign missionaries. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson

## Lottie Moon receipts running far behind

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Contributions to the 1987 Lottie Moon offering for Southern Baptist foreign missions had reached less than 80 percent of the goal of \$75 million by late March.

Receipts at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board totaled \$59.7 million by March 28, about \$4.1 million less than the amount recorded last year at the same point.

The annual church offering, which helps support more than 3,800 missionaries in 112 countries, is received by most Southern Baptist churches during the Christmas season. The mission board receives Lottie Moon funds for months afterward. The offering total is calculated at the end of May.

The 1986 offering totaled \$69.4

million, more than \$5 million below the goal of \$75 million. The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which promotes the offering, decided not to raise the 1987 goal after consulting with mission officials.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks expressed "deep concern" about the pace of receipts for the offering, which was intended to finance almost half of the total 1988 mission budget of \$167.8 million.

"It doesn't look good," Parks said. "It's coming in slower than it has in years past. This creates some serious implications for our budget. I pray and hope that somehow the end result would be better than it now appears to be. This is going to have a serious impact on missions unless such does happen."

The Second Front Page

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## Educators form Book-Link to match needs with donors

By Jim Burton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators has organized Book-Link to provide English-language Christian literature requested by Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States and abroad.

The national fellowship will act as a clearing-house to link requests and resources for Christian books and literature, said Mississippian Hal Buchanan, national coordinator of the educators' fellowship.

Requests will come primarily from home and foreign missionaries, said Larry Cox, interim director of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men. The fellowship then will seek donors, and once a match is made, the donor will ship directly to the recipient.

Book-Link will complement several

other projects including Books for the World, Inc., a Yazoo City, Miss., organization started by the late Owen Cooper. Books for the World provides secular textbooks for overseas classrooms. However, many of the requests are for Christian books and literature, Cox said.

Books for the World tested the demand for the new project through the June 1987 issue of Intercom, a monthly newsletter to missionaries published by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The announcement in Intercom resulted in more than 20 requests for books, ranging from doctrine to preaching.

Once Books for the World is unable to meet the demand it has discovered for Christian books and literature, said Mississippian Gene Triggs, presi-

dent of Books for the World's board of directors. Triggs asked the National Fellowship of Baptist Men last June to form Book-Link.

"Retired pastors who have extensive libraries could share what the Lord has given them and their books would live on to help develop new pastors," said Buchanan.

The task now is to find donors who have books or are willing to acquire books requested through Book-Link. The organization particularly is interested in working with any age group in churches with Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union programs that are seeking a mission action project, Cox said.

Jim Burton writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

## Russian Baptists urge Kremlin to stop sponsoring atheism

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Soviet law governing church-state relations may undergo its first revision since 1929. Alexei Bichkov, who represents more than 500,000 Baptists in the Soviet Union, said he was one of about 10 religious leaders who met with Ministry of Religious Affairs officials in January about the possible revision. Baptists will ask the government to stop sponsoring atheism, Bichkov said: "Atheism ought to be the same voluntary organization like religion — self-supported, self-governed." Officials encouraged the religious leaders "to express ourselves (to the) maximum about what we need in new legislation," Bichkov said. Bichkov is general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union. He visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here after the March executive committee meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Washington.

Baptists also will ask for a "declaration of freedom of conscience" that is "very short, very dynamic, very concrete," Bichkov said. And they will suggest that religious groups formulate bylaws appropriate to their traditions.

Baptists will request removal of prohibitions against religious education work with youth and children and against church-organized ministry in hospitals and homes for the aged and disabled. Baptists want to establish

their own "mercy action groups," Bichkov said. Bichkov also was one of three religious leaders named by Soviet officials to their delegation for this year's session of the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights. A mid-February meeting of the delegation gave him another chance to express Baptist concerns, he said.

In a written statement for a press conference after the meeting, Bichkov expressed hope that Baptists "as well as other churches and religious organizations will occupy their due place in our society, particularly in affairs of charity, in virtue, and in the

general social life of the country."

This year's celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in the Soviet Union has grown beyond a Russian Orthodox celebration to a national event, Bichkov noted. Bichkov said he still senses a "deeply hidden interest in Jesus Christ" among Soviet writers, poets and composers. One noted author, a Muslim, recently penned a moving description of Christ, Bichkov reported. Asked why, the writer said Mohammed was a great man who advanced his ideology while Christ used only his love for people.

## Southern Baptist nurses set first Day of Prayer May 6

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Baptist Nursing Fellowship leaders have joined other Christian nursing organizations to observe May 6, "National Nurses Day," as a day of prayer.

More than 900 members of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will join in the observance with members of Association of Seventh-day Adventist Nurses, Christian Nurse Educators, Hospital Christian Fellowship, Mennonite Nurses Association, Nurses Christian Fellowship, Nurses for Christ, and Sisters of Charity.

Meeting together recently for the

first time, representatives from the eight Christian nursing organizations named the day of prayer after identifying two major areas of concern in the nursing profession — the decline in number of nursing students and the decline in the number of people employed as nurses.

Pastors have been asked to recognize nurses in their congregations Sunday, May 1, to launch the week spotlighting nurses and their work. Nurses are being encouraged to pray individually and in groups.



# capsules

## WMU Centennial celebration registration closes at 11,000

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Registration for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Centennial Celebration, May 13-14 in Richmond, Va., has closed with a capacity crowd of 11,000.

WMU will not accept new registra-

tion applications, said Carolyn Weatherford, national WMU executive director.

Questions about registration status should be directed in writing to WMU Centennial Celebration, P.O. Box C-10, Birmingham, Ala., 35283-0010.

## Revival breaks out in Macao

MACAO — Some 150 students made simultaneous professions of faith in Christ during a January evangelistic chapel service at the Pooi Ching School in Macao, missionaries reported.

A Christian revival has since broken out among students at the Baptist middle and high school, where missionary teacher Tome Halsell and others have been active in evangelism.

Bible funds have been requested for discipleship work. Also in January, Macao Baptists organized their first mission chapel in years in a high-rise apartment building. Macao is a Portuguese colony just south of Hong Kong on China's coast.

## Gay protest fizzles at Houston church

DALLAS (BP) — An anticipated large-scale appearance by gay activists and AIDS patients at the Easter services of Second Church, Houston, failed to draw more than a handful of participants.

Out of an estimated crowd of 10,000, about a dozen persons attending the services wore ribbons indicating their support for a professional musician with tuberculosis and AIDS who was asked not to perform in the orchestra at Second Church, according to Gary Moore, minister of music. "Maybe four of them" indicated they were AIDS patients, Moore said.

Controversy arose when a musician — hired to perform in an orchestra at the church — was asked not to play at Palm Sunday services after it was discovered he had tuberculosis, according to Moore. Later, it was learned the musician also had AIDS.

Although the church offered to pay the orchestra member even though he would not be allowed to perform, other union members of the orchestra walked out in support of him.

"Our people were very cordial to them," he said. "I think that kind of shook them up."

## Texas sets \$5.6 million goal

DALLAS (BP) — A \$5,678,910 goal for the 1988 Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions was set by the Texas Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board during its March 22-24 meeting at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment in Cedar Hill, Texas.

## Baptizing converts takes 40 minutes

MOORE, Okla. (BP) — Two ministers, immersing two converts at a time, took 40 minutes to baptize half the results of a one-day Pentecost revival led by Evangelist Freddie Gage at First Church here.

The one-day revival, held March 13, resulted in 171 people making professions of faith. Pastor Bobby Boyles believes 150 of the 171 new converts — only 8 or 10 of whom were already church members — will be baptized.

Boyles cited 130 members taking Continuing Witness Training, an all night prayer vigil, and a witnessing blitz among the factors leading toward the results. Also, "We are very meticulous in follow-up. In fact, it is a 90 percent factor. We'll keep going back until they tell us 'absolutely no, don't come back,'" the pastor said.

## Food trucks for Ethiopia are destroyed

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (EP) — Three long-haul trucks, traveling in a convoy and carrying 151,000 pounds of grain, were destroyed in an armed attack, dealing a "crippling blow" to Food for the Hungry, a U.S.-based international relief agency.

The trucks, valued at \$300,000, represented 60 percent of the large-volume food delivery capacity of the agency.

Although the three 23-ton Food for the Hungry trucks were traveling as part of a convoy with four UN trucks, they were singled out in the attack.

## A. Guy Gray, minister, dies

Arthur Guy Gray, 73, died April 1, 1988, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson. Services were held at 10 a.m. on April 4 at Ott and Lee Funeral Home in Morton with burial in Cross Roads Cemetery in Rankin County.

He lived most of his life in Rankin County. He was pastor at several Baptist churches through the years, his last church being Thornhill Church, Pelahatchie.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Mae Huff Gray; daughters, Mrs. Truman (Shelby) Tucker of Florence and Mrs. Robert (Judy) Miller of Prentiss; sons, Tommie R. Gray of Vicksburg and Ricky Gray of Pearl; two sisters; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

# Committee chairman says nominations process fair

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Nominating Committee says he "is sorry" a Texas member thinks the committee was unfair "because I thought it was fair."

Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., told Baptist Press that Jimmy Towers, a pastor from San Antonio, "has a right to his own impressions, but I thought we (the committee) worked hard, did prayerful... diligent work. I thought everyone was proceeding in good faith. I thought we had a good meeting."

Towers, pastor of Crossroads Church, told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of Texas Baptists, three of the five nominations he made were disregarded by the committee because of SBC politics. He said he was told by several committee members his nominations were scrutinized and altered because he had been nominated by George Harris, a fellow San Antonio pastor who has announced he will nominate Richard Jackson of Phoenix, Ariz., for SBC president.

Knott declined to comment on any conversations Towers might have had with other committee members "because I wasn't party to them."

When asked if Towers had been discriminated against because of his relationship with Harris, Knott replied: "I don't know who George Harris is. I have never heard of him; I don't know anything about it. Also, I did not know Jim Towers before the meeting or that he had been nominated by George Harris, if I had known who George Harris is."

"I am a layman and I don't live and breathe all of this stuff. I don't know many Southern Baptists in North Carolina, much less in Texas."

Knott said: "As I recall, he (Towers) nominated two people from the Houston area to serve on the Southwestern (Seminary) board as local members. The charter calls for local members to be from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex area. Thus, the two people were ineligible. We reshuffled his list and tried to find places for these two."

"He (Towers) also nominated his wife for a place on a board. We passed a resolution at the beginning that said no spouse of any member would be nominated. We were trying to avoid any taint of nepotism. His wife was knocked off, and she was not placed anywhere else. She certainly was not the only wife who was not nominated."

Knott said one of Tower's nominations was placed elsewhere and that the other man was nominated for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board: "But a nomination from the floor arose to substitute Paige (Patterson) for him, and that carried. It was put to a vote and it carried."

Towers told the Standard in order to make room for Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and a leader in the conservative effort in the SBC, another "widely known" pastor was shifted to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Although Towers would not name him, the Standard discovered the "widely known" pastor is Joel Gregory, president of the Baptist General Convention of

Texas and pastor of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth.

The Standard contacted Gregory, who said he had received no formal notification of his nomination. He said: "The whole incident speaks for itself. It is obvious that the elected leadership or the appointed leadership (of the SBC) did not want me to serve on the Foreign Mission Board. I can accept that."

"I am grieved that a very worthy Texas Baptist brother was removed from consideration for the Home Mission Board to accommodate me. I am in the process of appealing to the elected and appointed leadership to restore that brother to his rightful place on the HMB."

In his statement to the Standard, Towers said he retrieved from Knott the biographical sheet on the pastor who was not appointed to any responsibility. The sheet had the handwritten notation, "very bad, unacceptable," which Towers said Knott had acknowledged writing.

Towers said Knott had requested committee members to send nominations and biographical data to him prior to the meeting.

Knott told Baptist Press he had requested the information early because "we (the committee) had been requested to look for women and minorities to appoint. We also had to keep in the statute (bylaw) to keep a balance between pastors and laymen. I needed to know rather than wait until the last minute about the appointments and don't know any other way than to get advance information."

He added he "was scrupulous to make a notation" of any information he received about any potential nominee. "People called me endlessly about the committee," he said. "They made comments about people who might be nominated."

Knott said when "people from the states called making nominations — using irregular channels — I referred them to the state representatives. We had hundreds of names, and I had notes on lots of them." He added he had given Towers pages from "my own notebook," when the bio sheets were retrieved.

The North Carolina attorney said "in some cases" he did "call and check out the information I got, but usually I worked through the channels."

Towers "was not unique" in having some of his nominations replaced, Knott said: "It was not unusual for someone from another state to make recommendations for states other than their own. I had a recommendation I made defeated."

He said of the "knocking off" of two of Towers' nominations: "One of them was his wife, and the nomination from the floor knocked off the other."

I don't think there was any ruthlessness about it. If he hadn't come up with those three ineligible people, there wouldn't have been any problem at all."

After Towers' charges were made public, the Standard asked Harris for comment: "I am just sorry that it has come down to this; that they would not let him (Towers) stand on his own without having to assume that my putting him on the committee was

with any intent or intention of orchestrating anything."

"I put him on because I knew him to be a conservative, loyal Southern Baptist and never once met with him or talked with him about his nominations."

Harris, pastor of First Church, of Castle Hills in San Antonio, was appointed to the 1987 Committee on Committees by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

Under SBC bylaws, the sitting president appoints the Committee on Committees.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

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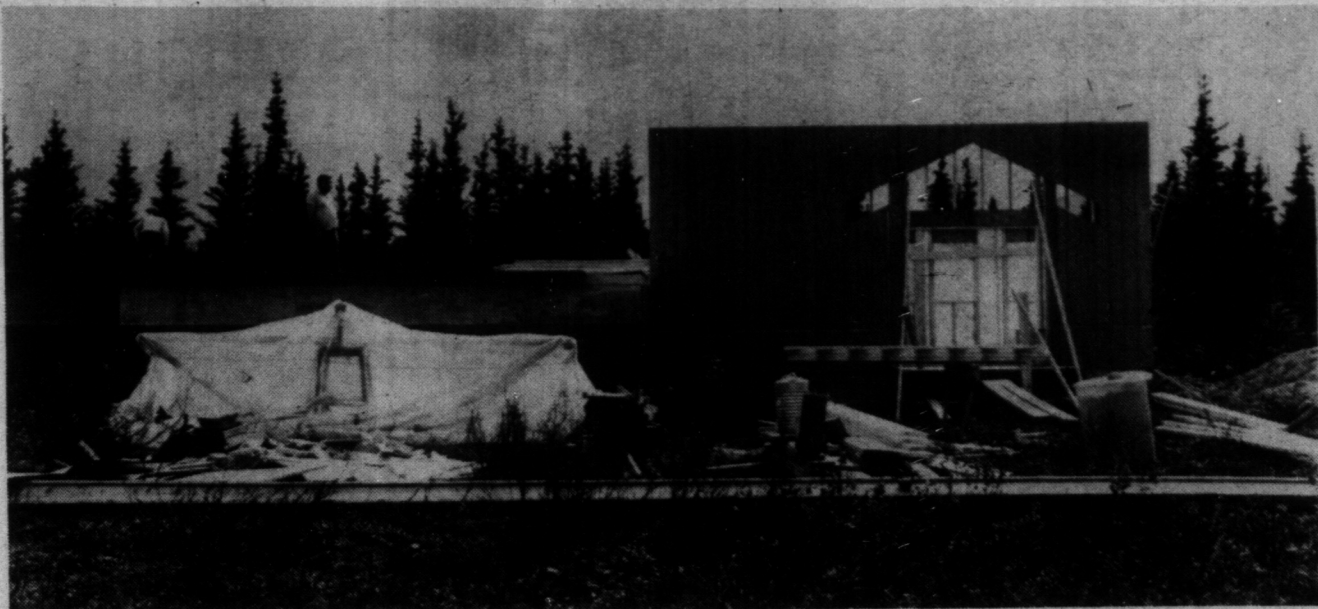
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David Baldwin, Alaska's Tananna Valley Baptist Association director of missions, oversees the construction of a new church,

which means more people will be able to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

## Educators will see vision

SAN ANTONIO (BP) — "Our Vision: Expanded and Renewed" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association annual meeting and related seminars here June 11-13. Four sessions June 12 and 13 in Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will explore various aspects of the religious educators' professional vision, announced association President Irene Bennett, minister of education and youth at Evans (Ga.) Church. Topics for those sessions and the keynote speakers who will interpret each session's theme are "Through Our Calling," Harry Piland, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division; "Through Our Relationships With Church Members," Brooks Faulkner, manager of the Sunday School Board's vocational guidance section; "Through Our Leadership Skills," Mark Short, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

"Through Our Ministry to One Another," Bob Edd Shotwell, minister of education at Hyde Park Church, Austin. In addition to the thematic emphasis of the four major sessions, participants will choose from 12 workshops that will treat the theme from specific viewpoints or ministerial situations, she said. Workshop leaders have been asked to include time for participants to brainstorm about how their areas of focus relate to the overall theme as well as their organization.

Each major session will begin with a "brief, humorous, dramatic introduction" led by Dennis Parrish, instructor in communication at Southwestern Seminary, Bennett reported. Parrish and Southwestern students are preparing and will present the dramatic introductions, she said.

Participants also will have the chance to attend one of three pre-meeting seminars June 11. A free

seminar for religious education professors will be held at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Topics include "Supervising Field Experiences for Students," "Making Effective Use of Computers in Teaching," and "Religious Educators and Their Vocational Image."

Two seminars will be held at the Radisson-Gunter Hotel. "Computers and the Church" will be led by Lewis Fitts, church administrator for Prestonwood Church, Dallas, and "Communicating with Your Public" will be led by Floyd A. Craig, president of Craig and Associates, Inc., of Raleigh, N.C. Cost for each seminar is \$30 for association members and \$50 for non-members.

For more information on the meeting or the seminars, contact the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, P.O. Box 330369, Fort Worth, Texas 76163; phone (817) 292-7371.

## Campus ministers to reach out, in

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist campus ministers will focus on evangelism and renewal during their annual meeting here June 12-13.

"Revival — Reaching Out/Reaching In" will be the theme of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers conference, to be held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The campus ministers will meet on the campus of Trinity University.

"We hope our theme will tie into the theme of the convention's annual meeting as well as speak to us," said the organization's president, Arliss

Dickerson. The SBC theme will be "Pour Out Revival."

The campus ministers' reaching out/reaching in theme has a dual purpose, Dickerson said: "We're trying to help equip student ministers to do a better job of reaching students on their campuses for Christ. We also intend for this to be a time of renewal and recommitment for us as ministers."

A highlight of the meeting will be worship led by Charlie Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Church, Tulsa, who is noted for his ministry to college students, Dickerson said.

Another highlight will be "professional pilgrimages" by veteran cam-

pus ministers, he said: "We try to emphasize student ministry is a lifetime calling, and the people who will share their pilgrimages are models of this commitment. Student ministry in Southern Baptist life is really showing the results of this kind of mindset."

A banquet also will reinforce that emphasis, he added, noting awards will be presented to "people who have committed themselves in a significant way to student ministry."

Southern Baptists provide ministry to students on 1,100 campuses across the country, Dickerson said. Up to 200 student ministers are expected to participate in the San Antonio meeting.

## State's Alliance will meet at Alta Woods

The Southern Baptist Alliance in Mississippi will have its first state-wide meeting, April 16, at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. in the old fellowship hall. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of lunch and program materials.

The keynote speaker will be the acting executive secretary of the Alliance, Alan Neely, professor of missions and evangelism at Southeastern Seminary. An update on the SBA will be given by John Thomason, president of the SBA and pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson, and by Tom Sims, SBA board member and attorney from Richton. The meeting will conclude at 3 p.m. with worship. Reservations may be made by calling Northminster Church at 982-4703.

## Tribute to secretaries

(Continued from page 2)

together in the conceptions and designs of circulation promotion and the advertising that goes with it.

Betty Anne Bailey is the financial records clerk. She keeps up with who owes what and who has paid how much and handles all of the other financial details for the paper except for working out advertising cost and payment procedures.

Irene Martin is computer operator and as such makes all of the additions, deletions, and changes in subscriber information; and she enters the book-keeping records into the computer system. She is the one whose schedule allows her to do the greatest amount of secretarial work.

All of these ladies are experts in their areas. They are a part of the management team. They are consultants in carrying on the work of the Baptist Record.

As we approach Professional Secretaries Week, the Baptist Record surely wants to take time to recognize and pay tribute to those who serve in secretarial positions on our staff.

## Help needed!

One more volunteer is needed to go on a mission project to Chile July 9-25. This trip is organized by Mississippi WMU. The assignment is to teach VBS to missionary kids, and the cost is \$1,200.

"If you are interested, please contact the WMU office at 968-3800 immediately," says Monica Keathley, consultant in WMU.

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## Medical-Dental Fellowship will hear Paul Brand

Paul Brand will be the featured speaker for the annual Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship which will meet May 5 at First Church, Jackson.

Brand is an internationally known orthopedist, hand surgeon, medical researcher, author, and lecturer. He was a missionary in India who worked with leprosy patients.

Fellowship time begins at 6 p.m.,

with the dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 and the program concluding about 9 p.m. A nursery and preschool are available on contacting the Brotherhood Department.

The program is for Baptist medical and dental professionals, including physicians, dentists, residents, medical and dental students, nurses, and pharmacists. The nurses will have a separate session during part of the evening.

Cost of the dinner is \$10 per person. To make reservations write the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800.

The meeting will discuss missions possibilities. The fellowship has already committed to participate in a one-week project on the island of Antigua the week of Sept. 3.

Other requests from the Foreign Mission Board include: surgeons, In-

dia, 2-4 weeks; ophthalmologist/optometrist/opticians, India, 2-4 weeks; obstetrician/gynecologist, India, one or more months; family/general practitioner, India, 2-4 weeks; infectious disease specialist, India, 2-4 weeks; cardiologist, India, 2-4 weeks; internist, India, 2-4 weeks; radiologist, India, 2-4 weeks; staff physicians and clinics, Antigua, one week; general medicine clinic, Antigua, one week.



# Brazil mission trip changed volunteers

By Tim Nicholas

"It challenged me to come home and be a better witness for Christ," said Mississippi University for Women student Angie Atkins after her return from Brazil.

Miss Atkins was among 143 Southern Baptist college students — including 25 Mississippians — to travel to Brazil Jan. 1-12 to participate in a massive evangelistic project in that South American country.

For Miss Atkins, the trip also "strengthened and reconfirmed my commitment to foreign missions." She had made the commitment earlier at age 19. The nursing student said she is now certain of her calling.

She served on a team in Sao Luis on the northern coast in an affluent section of town. Each American student was paired with a Brazilian student. They would knock on doors for a survey asking who Jesus is to the respondent and where that person goes to church. When appropriate the young people would present the gospel message of salvation in Christ as depicted in Romans and invite them to a worship service at a local hotel.

"It was a great success," she said. The service was "your basic type of revival." There were testimonies, preaching, puppet shows, and group singing. There were about 15-20 professions of faith at the services and another 30-40 made during the surveys of Angie's team of five Americans and five Brazilians.

With a heavy influence of spiritism, said Miss Atkins, a Brazilian believing in many gods finds it "hard to understand and believe in one person God who is like a friend."

Jamie Stewart, a student at

Mississippi College, in addition to street witnessing and door-to-door evangelism, had a different assignment from most of the others. He and his teammates also did social ministry — making speeches on hygiene, and a bit of agricultural work.

Stewart, music and youth director at Bogue Chitto Church, said the trip "really made me look at my Christian walk." He said he could also "see how much the Lord has blessed us and how selfish we could be." He added, "I saw I could depend on God even if I didn't have anything."

Stewart, who plans on going into the ministry after school, said he felt his group's work was "really effective." He said they met not only spiritual needs, but physical needs as well.

Elizabeth Thurmond, assistant BSU director at Northeast Mississippi Junior College, participated in the Brazil mission trip, working in a "pioneer" Baptist area where the pastor had had his life threatened and no acceptance socially at all. That was before he volunteered to teach in the local school for free. "They loved that and accepted that," said Miss Thurmond.

The day after Miss Thurmond's team arrived there was a river baptism for six converts there in the town of Piracaruca in the northernmost area of the country.

Like many of the other volunteers, Miss Thurmond said the trip did something special for her. She said that at age 26, having gone through several careers — teaching, band directing, and on the side doing



SAO LUIS, Brazil — Angela Atkins (left), a student at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, and Brazilian student Marcio Barros Dutra from Belo Horizonte, Brazil, complete survey information on a family in an affluent section of Sao Luis. The team assisted Southern Baptist missionaries

in the city who are attempting to establish a Baptist church in the neighborhood. The team located several families who may become the basis for the new work. (BSSB photo by Jim Veneman)

volunteer church work, "the Lord really opened my eyes for the first time," and she found herself "really grasping and accepting that the Lord has called me as a minister in student work." She said she can now see how step by step God has placed her in ministry and "no longer do I have to search for a career."

Miss Thurmond said as far as she and her team could count, there were 25 true conversions which were followed up with Bible study.

Besides the personal effects of the work on the Mississippians' lives, there was a blending of two cultures — American and Brazilian. When the parting came at the end of the project, the two groups joined hands across

the hotel convention center which was their headquarters in Brasilia singing "I Love You with the love of the Lord in English and Portuguese."

Earlier, in an emotional testimony, Jeff Boyette, a student from Delta State University, expressed the feelings of many. "I'd like to take all of you home with me but there's not room enough in my house."

"I will take all of you home in my heart. There's plenty of room for all of you in my heart."

Others from Mississippi participating in the trip were Lisa Batson and Wendy Willoughby of Pearl River Junior College; Mike Boggan, John Bagwell, Donette Blaine, Ken Hester, Sandy Bilbo, and Andy Sharp of

Mississippi State; Janet Carroll and Derick Pitts of Northeast; Lavon Gray of CO-Lin; Bobbie King of Blue Mountain; Anette Almand, Vera Cranford, and Leonard Locke of Ole Miss; Keith Parker, Melissa Carte and Michelle Miller of USM; Laurie Wilkerson of Northwest; Patrick Beard of Itawamba; and Frank Porter, associate director of Jones County Junior College BSU.

The project was sponsored by two Brazil Baptist agencies along with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

One half of all expenses of the Mississippi Baptist students was paid by the state Baptist Student Union student missions fund.

## Letters to the editor

### 150 for First, Jackson

Editor:

I would like to call your attention and the attention of your readers to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss. The theme of the celebration is, "Searching Our History, Serving Our Lord."

The celebration will continue from April 24-May 22. Programs of broad appeal will be offered each Sunday.

For further information please call 949-1941.

Eugene Stockstill  
Jackson

### Pastor in Italy

Editor:

Would you please print the following note in your "Letters to the Editor" column at the earliest possible date:

The Aviano Baptist Church, a congregation of 70 people located in Aviano, Italy, which is 40 miles northeast of Venice, Italy, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the United

States Air Force. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please contact Mrs. Donald Bates, Box 1209, APO New York 09293-5360.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Dorothy Bates  
secretary  
pastor search committee

### Southern Baptists must change

Editor:

Just some random thoughts: Who is a liberal? Am I one because I believe in moderation rather than fundamentalism? The liberals are not driving people away from the church. It is the fundamentalists. After all, we are not living in the 16th Century.

About the Cooperative Program: Few churches really try. Most of them are run for the church — money-wise, etc. We should do more than we do. I

do not mean to imply that preachers should not, and other personnel, receive a decent salary. But then, if they had wanted to become rich, they should have chosen another profession. The saying, "I've been called," is beginning to hold little for me. You know I'm right. Money does talk among Southern Baptists as well as corporate executives.

I am, in a way, pleased that Jack Harwell received another job, but I'll read some more, or rather re-read the March 3, 1988, issue. But I do strongly feel the women should be given a larger voice in the church. After all, they run it. I am not opposed to women preachers, deacons, etc. Who contributes most of the money?

We'll soon be in the 21st Century. I do not expect to make it as I'll be 71 on June 8, 1988. But somehow Southern Baptists must change or we'll go down the drain.

Name withheld  
by request

I do not know what a liberal is because I do not know any. The term as you usually see it applied by some members of the "conservative" group is a misapplication. — Editor

### "Strike like lightning"

Editor:

Have we finally subscribed to an insidious hierarchy of ministerial value which will be applied to all ministers — lay or clerical? Have we become so enamored with the "effectiveness" of the "preachers' fight" in the Southern Baptist Convention that we desire similar dictatorial, egomaniacal, and judgmental self-righteousness proudly exhibited from local pulpits?

A growing clamor for an insidious creedalism is sensed in SBC activities. Are local pulpits to become similar forges where a rigid interpretation of a word of God is dictated rather than the Word of God proclaimed?

Our seminaries and colleges are expected to function as religious vocation schools and not as centers of academic fervor where the truth of God rises naturally above the dross of all imitators. Are our Sunday School classes to follow suit as self-ordained arbiters of the "faith" dictate what is to be said rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to instruct each priest/believer through his word?

"We" have decided that it is

necessary to endow our "peace committee" with powers akin to a Baptist "Holy Office." Is this a role we desire to establish for deacon bodies — or "procedural oversight" committees within those bodies of "table servers"?

Regrettably, each question can be answered affirmatively. I must confess that I, through passive inactivity, have allowed similar events to "happen" in my own church.

Baptists almost seem "to glory" in public, recriminative finger-pointing. We proclaim the speck in our neighbor's (lay or clerical) eye is more damaging than the plank obscuring our own vision. When will we stop this satanic divisiveness?

I have seen "distant" events strike like lightning in a local church as a small group destroyed a successful music ministry. I have seen worship services turn into periods of pedagogical strutting. When will we all claim the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14? If it is not soon, we may see the lost respond to the invitation of local Baptist congregations in neither choice nor echo.

Name withheld  
by request





## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### God specializes in things that seem impossible

*But as for me . . . I would commit my cause to God, who does great and unsearchable things, marvelous works without number (Job 5:8, New Berkeley Version in Modern English).*

To set impossible goals and set out to achieve them — to me that's a heady nectar. I read about a man who listed 100 impossible things he wanted to do before he died — things like climbing the Matterhorn, writing a book, learning to play the organ, and paddling a canoe up the Amazon. By the time he was 68, he had done 92 of the things on his list. Reading about him makes me want to add things to my "impossible" list and get started on one of them today.

Jesus was often telling someone to do something that sounded impossible. He told a blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, and see. He told his disciples to feed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. He told Lazarus, dead for four days, to come forth from the grave. He said to a group of fishermen, "Go into all the world, and tell."

To missionaries stationed among the millions who've never heard of Jesus, I expect that task of telling has sometimes looked pretty impossible. But this has not stopped them from being obedient to Jesus' command. For a long time, the response to Southern Baptist missionaries' message in Thailand was slow. Still



Somporn Sirikolkarn, director of Every Home for Christ in Thailand, points to a map of Thailand, indicating some of the places where gospel booklets have been distributed.

the percentage remains 95 percent Buddhist, 4 percent Muslim, and less than 1 percent Christian. But the Foreign Mission Board reports that "response to the gospel is growing in Thailand, creating a spirit of optimism among Thai Baptists, who have set high goals for the remainder of the century."

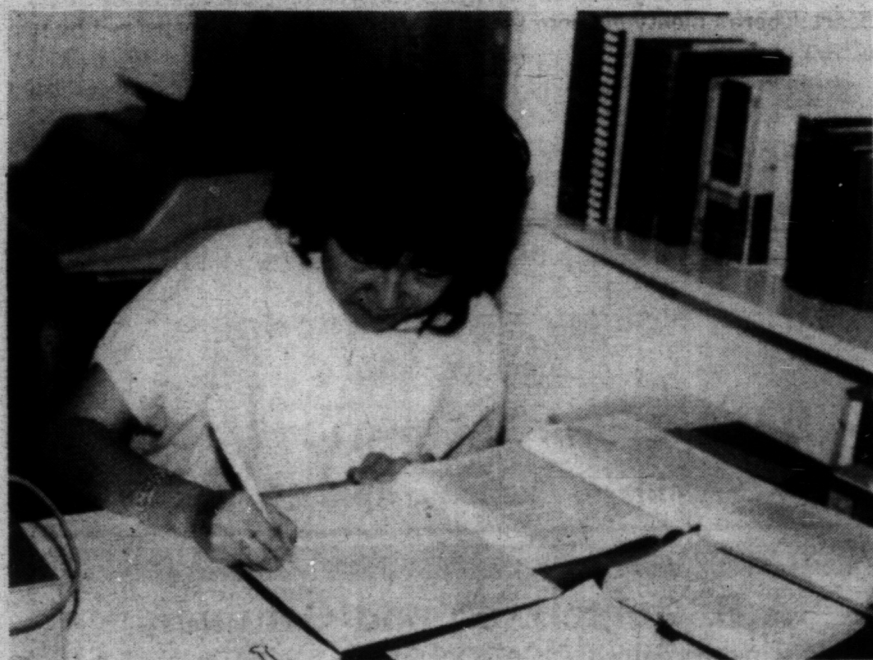
Every Home for Christ began in Thailand in 1971 and set an "impossible" goal to reach every home with the Christian message, through the printed word. To pioneer workers traveling by boats up rivers and canals to houses in remote areas, that goal must have often seemed impossible. In 16 years, workers have delivered 17,201,000 gospel booklets and recorded 77,700 responses.

"The birth rate stays ahead of the 'new birth' rate," said Somporn Sirikolkarn, director of EHC for Thailand. His shoes left outside the door, he stood in sock feet on the teakwood floor and pointed to a map of the country. Offices of EHC in Bangkok are in a two-story house given by a medical doctor. "We keep records by hand," said Somporn, "and not by computer, because the Thai language is tricky. Whole lines are written without spaces between words. The language has 44 characters, 20 vowels, and five tones."

Their word processor has four levels, four lines for English, one line for Thai. But translators have not let the tricky language problems make them say, "Impossible." A new translation is in process, combining the New International and Good News versions to make the Word more meaningful to Thai readers.

Sometimes, in answer to challenges God has placed before me, I have said, "I'm too old," or "That looks foolish" or "That's too dangerous," or "I'm too tired." I've looked at my own hands and feet instead of reaching out to take God's offered hand and taking a confident step forward.

Matthew 28:19 — "Go ye and teach all nations" — sounds impossible until you read Matthew 28:18, where Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" and Matthew 28:20, of Jesus' promise, "Lo, I am with you alway."



A translator in the EHC office in Bangkok combines New International and Good News versions in an effort to make the Word meaningful to Thai readers.

### Soviet soldiers are evangelizing Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan (EP) — An unnamed source who formerly lived in Afghanistan has just returned from a fact-finding trip to that country and reports that Soviet soldiers, sent to the volatile Islamic region by the government as punishment for their outspoken Christian faith, are leading Bible studies and evangelizing Afghans.

"Afghans are definitely becoming Christians because of [the soldiers'] witness," the source told Dan Wooding of Open Doors News Service.

"I would say that there are no more than one thousand Christians in the whole country," said the source, who added that although Soviet evangelism has increased the numbers, "I'm not talking about hundreds of converts."

The religion of the country on the southern border of the Soviet Union is Islam, and leaving the faith is punishable by death. Western Christian missionaries have been denied entrance to the country, and because the penalty for becoming a Christian is so severe, most native Afghans who do so leave the country.

### Messenger cards are available

Messenger cards for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting this June in San Antonio are available to churches from the Executive Director's office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

These cards must be signed by the church moderator or clerk in order for the messenger to register for the convention.

Messengers must be members of the churches which elect them. For cards, write Earl Kelly, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800.

Thursday, April 14, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## ACTS award nominees include state shows

The ACTS Awards will be presented April 22 for the best in programming over the Southern Baptist ACTS television network.

A number of programs produced in Mississippi are among the nominees.

For best commercial, Mississippians have two of the three nominations: "Time for a Tune-Up," Jackson ACTS; and "Hattiesburg Concert Association," by Hattiesburg ACTS.

"Drug Cemetery" by Cleveland ACTS, is nominated for Best Public Service Announcement.

Best Short Feature has two Mississippi nominees of the five: "Talk About Trains" by Hattiesburg ACTS; and "To Be Continued," by the Baptist Record; "On Track" by

Cleveland ACTS is a nominee for Best Music Video Program, and for Best Seasonal Special, "Carols by Candlelight" from First Church, Jackson and Jackson ACTS is a nominee.

"Morning Worship" of First Church, Laurel, by Laurel ACTS is a nominee for Best Worship Series.

"Mississippi Baptists . . . Responding" by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and "Mission to Las Trojes" by Cleveland ACTS are two of the three nominees for Best Missions/Evangelism Program.

Nominees for the Promotion Award include Hattiesburg ACTS. And "Pistol Pete" by ACTS of Jackson is a nominee for Best Network Special by an Associate Producer.

## MasterLife is a hit in Japan

TOKYO — The MasterLife discipleship program has become popular among Japanese Baptists. More than 200 Japanese Christians had been certified in the program by late 1987, with 30 MasterLife groups meeting regularly in 24 Baptist churches.

Introduced to Japan by Southern Baptist missionaries, MasterLife "seems to be uniquely suited to the Japanese mind and society," said Foreign Mission Board East Asia Director Sam James. "It has the potential of completely revolutionizing the church in Japan."

### Devotional

## Let the redeemed of the Lord say so . . .

By Mary Lee Carraway

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have" (1 Peter 3:15b).

Poor Peter must have written these words with the pain of his denial etched forever within his heart. Peter denied our Lord with his voice, yet I wonder how many times I have denied him with my silence simply by missing opportunities in normal conversation to praise him and testify to his presence.

In the grocery store check-out line, I allowed a woman holding one item to go ahead of my full shopping cart. Instead of a mumbled "Thank you," she said, "God bless you." I could tell by the expression in her voice and on her face that she meant exactly that. There was no doubt that God was real to her.

Carraway

Robert Dottley of Laurel said that Christians have many opportunities each week to give someone "the reason for the hope you have." Think how often in the past few days, someone has asked, "How are you?"

Brother Bob said that instead of the usual "Fine, thanks," we can respond by saying, "Saved by grace," or "Leaning on the everlasting arms." My personal favorite reply is, "Redeemed! Redeemed!"

One Christmas I worked in a fabric/crafts store. Everywhere taffeta, velvets, stockings, wreaths, ribbons, and ornaments proclaimed the season. A young mother searched for the right pattern for a special holiday dress for her daughter who accompanied her. The child was probably four or five years old. Joyfully she skipped from display to display touching the soft plush of teddy bear fabric, tinkling small bells, and sniffing cinnamon potpourri.

As I totaled her mother's purchase, I asked the child the age-old question. "Are you excited about Christmas?"

She nodded, but then said in an earnest voice. "But I'm more excited about going to heaven."

Oh, that I too could be filled with such a childish impatience for Jesus' return and an excitement for heaven and an irresistible urge to tell someone!

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so . . . for it was not with silver and gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ . . ." (Psalm 106:2, 1 Peter 1:18-19).

Mary Lee Carraway is a free-lance writer and a member of First Church, Lucedale.



## Jacksonian deposits two years in Brazil



The place: Ubatuba, SP, Brazil. Journeyman Stuart Bailey, Charlotte, NC, holds the daughter of the pastor. A Tennessee team member takes a water break from the intense heat.



The place: Factory where chapel components and furniture are manufactured at Araruama, state of Rio, Brazil. Hiram Powell, MSC volunteer from Mississippi, Jackson, is on the business end of a 28 inch planer.

By Tim Nicholas

Ubatuba sounds almost like it could be a town in Mississippi. Instead, it's a town in Brazil where a Mississippi layman has begun depositing two of his years as a volunteer missionary.

Hiram Powell of Jackson has gone as a Mission Service Corps volunteer to that South American country to utilize his skills in construction to help Brazilian Baptists build a series of low-cost chapels. The first is at Ubatuba.

The Ubatuba chapel was erected by a team from the Maryville area of Tennessee.

The chapel was designed by H. Marshall Flournoy, long-time missionary in Brazil. The first chapel was built in his backyard in Sao Paulo with hand power tools. Since that time nearly 100 chapels have been erected in various states, mostly in South Brazil.

Powell reports the key factors in the process are a mill in Araruama, about 70 miles from Rio de Janeiro, and volunteer teams from the United States. Powell works with missionaries Flournoy and Leo Weatherman, and journeyman Stuart Bailey. This group works with Brazilian employees of the mill building chapel components.

They then go with the volunteer crews to supervise and assist in the erection of the buildings.

"The chapel is a low cost opportunity for small congregations to quickly get into a temporary building until they can grow a church and expand," said Powell. "The cost to the congregation is usually little more than the cost of the land with the building components usually funded by contributing stateside churches with some support from the Brazilian Baptist Convention."

Ubatuba is a popular tourist city with nice beaches and tourist attractions, said Powell. It is crowded as tourists seek some respite from the crowded Sao Paulo industrial area with its 14 million inhabitants.



The place: Ubatuba, SP, Brazil. Kneeling second from left, Leo Weatherman is laying out the first truss on the job.

## Staff changes

Mike Parks, minister of music and media at Hilldale Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, since 1985, has accepted the position as minister of music at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. He will succeed Graham Smith, who is now director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Parks previously served three churches in Mississippi, at First, Houka, First, Okolona, and Calvary, Columbia. He is a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Junior College, Memphis State University, and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Jo, have a daughter, Megan, 3.

In Birmingham, Parks has written

and directed Christmas television specials with WBRC Channel 6, Birmingham, and has organized and developed the Hilldale School of Music.

Temple Church, Forest, has called Sid L. Taylor as pastor, effective March 27. Taylor, a native of Alabama previously served as pastor of Success Church, Gulf Coast, and is also founder and director of Prison Evangelism Outreach. He is a graduate of Auburn University and holds a master's degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Taylor and his wife, Kay, have three children, Mrs. Steve Brown, Melissa, and Trace. They are the grandparents of one grandson, Taylor.

Tyrone Nail is the new pastor of Harmony Church, Attala Association. He is the former pastor of Enon Church, near West Point.

## Wm. Carey announces new liberal studies degree

William Carey College has announced a new liberal studies degree program aimed at enhancing technical or pre-professional work on the junior college level.

"We feel this is one of the best expressions of what liberal art programs can do — give a person breadth," said J. V. McCrory, academic vice president at Carey. He called the new degree "A plan to accommodate the students in technical programs who want to get a baccalaureate degree after having finished junior college. It offers a strong liberal arts program combined with technical training."

While it is designed for students who have completed a technical associate degree and discovered the need for a degree from a four-year college to go with it, the program can

also accommodate students who do not want a traditional major but who are interested in getting a quality general education before specializing at a professional school.

The new degree is based in part on the belief that students are wiser and more experienced as juniors and seniors, hence more capable of profiting educationally from courses in history, literature, psychology, philosophy, and Bible. There is also a national trend back toward employers seeking new employees with a good general liberal arts background who can then be trained for special jobs.

Students electing to enroll in the new program have two options. They may select two areas for concentration with 24 credit hours in each area or they may select three concentra-

(Continued on page 9)

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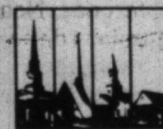
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# Professors explore integration of faith and discipline

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE (BP) — An attempt to strengthen the integration of faith and discipline in Southern Baptist college classrooms has been initiated by the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

The commission recently held its first faith and discipline seminar for non-religion faculty members representing 11 Baptist schools across the nation.

The seminar represented the Education Commission's first attempt to assist individual faculty members in the formulation of how personal faith can be communicated as part of their area of teaching, said Arthur L. Walker Jr., Education Commission executive director.

"The fulfillment of the institutional statement of purpose depends upon the involvement of the faculty members," he said in a background paper for seminar participants.

"When an institution claims to have a religious purpose and a religious identity, there is value in the school doing what it claims to be doing in terms of faith," Walker said.

Karen Longman, vice president of the Christian College Coalition in

Washington, an organization of 75 Christ-centered liberal arts colleges, told participants that the integration of faith and learning is the "integral relationship between the Christian faith and human knowledge as it relates to the academic disciplines."

Longman said integration of faith and discipline has to be more than "talking a good line." The integration takes place because of "people whose teaching is transformed because they believe that their faith is somehow influencing their teaching and academic work."

Longman pointed out most professors at religiously affiliated schools earn their doctorates at secular research universities where "at best our faith is irrelevant, and often it is ridiculed." They have no training in the integration of faith and discipline, but when they go to teach at Christian schools they are expected to be able to do so, she said.

Longman said another problem is "biblical illiteracy." Some faculty members are asked to "integrate what they don't know anything about," she said, adding they do not have a systematic view of theology.

Academic freedom also is an issue in regard to integrating faith and discipline, said Patricia Pinson, a fine arts professor at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. She noted professors must not allow their faith to become indoctrination.

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the Education Commission.

## Carey announces

(Continued from page 8)

tions of at least 12 hours each. Special stipulations for the program include the fact that at least half of the hours in each concentration must be upper level (junior or senior) courses, 36 of the required 48 hours must be other than core requirements for all degrees, and one concentration must be chosen from the liberal arts.

The liberal studies degree will be available to students on both the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg and at Carey on the Coast. Persons interested in details on the program may write: Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

# Annuitants conference attracts Mississippians

For the past nine years the Church Minister Relations and Annuity Department has provided transportation for those annuitants from Mississippi who wish to attend the Annuitants Conference at Ridgecrest. This year 13 have signed up to go. Bill Sellers, state annuity representative, and his wife, Jeanette, will be accompanying them and Bill will drive the bus. The group will leave Jackson on May. The conference concludes on Thursday evening, May 6.

Conference activities will include worship, Bible study, prayer sessions, small-group workshops, special music, an annuitant crafts fair and a banquet honoring annuitants. Optional afternoon workshops will offer conference-goers the opportunity to begin or hone skills in arts and crafts, painting and photography; to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); or to develop the art of "solo living." Other workshops are financial planning, grief work, and "God's Total Woman."

Special leadership for the conference includes: Bo Baker, preacher; Ralph Langley, Bible teacher; Beverly Terrell, concert artist and pianist; Marge Caldwell, morning watch sessions, and "God's Total Woman" leader; Gale Dunn, music leader; and Kermit Whiteaker, moderator and leader of the workshop on productive retirement.

"Parents often talk about the younger generation as if they didn't have anything to do with it."

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## Homecomings

Crowder, Crowder: April 24 (14th annual) Sunday School, 10 a.m. services, 11 a.m., lunch served in school gym right after services; David Lee, former pastor, now at Moss Point, message; Terry Cain, Natchez, music.

# Telephone poll not conducted for SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — A telephone survey to determine the attitudes and opinions of Southern Baptist pastors and messengers to the denomination's recent annual meetings is being conducted for an anonymous entity. It is not being conducted for the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee, according to Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee.

The poll, which involves about 50 questions, is being taken by Hill Research Consultants of Houston. That organization's president, David B. Hill, told Baptist Press the poll is for a "private client," which he declined to identify.

Hill apologized that some people who were called got the impression the survey was for the Southern Baptist Convention, noting the inter-

viewers are not told who authorized the poll.

The calls are being made to pastors and messengers to recent conventions in "five or six states" which have a large number of Baptists, seeking to determine their impressions of individuals and agencies of the convention, Hill said. Baptist Press has learned calls are being received in Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

The pastors were selected randomly from the directory of churches and pastors produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but the list of former messengers was provided to Hill by the client, Hill said. The client was given instructions on how to choose at random a sample of messengers to be polled, he said.

The telephone interviewers are having an "enormously difficult time"

because many of the people called are contentious and argumentative, often giving lengthy discussions of their opinions of SBC political activities, Hill noted.

The client will receive a statistical summary of the survey, Hill said, but will not be permitted to see specific responses of individuals.

He described the poll as a "very balanced" survey, adding the contract forbids the client from making any revelations that are inconsistent with the total survey. "If the client misrepresents the survey's results, I can make a full public disclosure of the results," Hill said.

Hill Research Consultants is a subsidiary of Telesurvey of Texas, which generally does marketing surveys and polls for political candidates.

# Entrepreneur missiologists needed to reach ethnics in the '90s, says Romo

By Joe Westbury

HONOLULU (BP) — Missions among ethnics in the last decade of the 20th century calls for "entrepreneur missiologists" if Southern Baptists are to reach their nation for Christ, according to a language missions specialist.

Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said home missionaries of the near future must be innovators and visionaries who are willing to take chances in their ministries.

"Basic market segmentation of the unchurched will help us know how to package the uncompromised biblical message of salvation. The target group we wish to reach will determine

the environment and context in which the gospel seed is to be planted and the selection of the salesman (missionary) who is to plant the seed," he said.

Romo made the observation during the agency's annual language missions leadership conference. Nearly 300 state language missions directors and other guests attended the workshop in Honolulu, which focused on evangelizing the growing number of "Pacific Rim" immigrants to America.

The United States is one of 27 Pacific Rim nations bordering the Pacific Ocean, but it is attracting more immigrants than any other country in the Pacific — or the world.

It is the responsibility of Southern Baptists to respond to the new Americans with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Romo said.

"The immigration and birthrate of the '80s point toward dramatic changes in the U.S. population during the next century," he said. "It is estimated that more than half of all Americans will be Hispanics, Asians and Black by the year 2080."

"About 74 percent of the Blacks and 68 percent of Anglos in America's cities are church members; but less than 4 percent of the ethnics living there have heard the message of salvation," he said.

Joe Westbury writes for the Home Mission Board.

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# Just for the Record



At First, Sumner, the RAs, Gas, Acteens, and Mission Friends helped to prepare for emphasis on home missions and the Annie Armstrong Offering on March 13. Some made state flags for display (pictured). Others collected cans to sell, or worked at home and in businesses to make more money for missions. On several Sundays, children took home missions stories, to keep the church reminded of the challenge. When the offering fell \$31.68 short of the \$1,000 goal, members quickly took more gifts to the altar. Says the pastor, Millard Caulder, "When the day was through, our church had collected \$1,400 for home missions, and then we sang 'Victory in Jesus.'"

The youth of Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs, started their fundraising projects to raise money for a trip to Six Flags in Atlanta, June 27-29. They held a "Rock-a-thon" which lasted for 10 hours and raised \$700. Kim Parker, a junior at Ole Miss, is the youth director.

CLINTON — The Mississippi College Department of Music will present Requiem K626 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, May 1 at 3 p.m. in Provine Chapel on campus featuring the Mississippi College Concert Choir and Orchestra.

The "Jubilation" Quartet from Magnolia, will highlight the homecoming and fifth anniversary celebration of Calvary Church, Gloster, with a concert at 2 p.m., April 17.

The celebration will begin with a churchwide picnic at Percy Quin State Park, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., April 16, at picnic shed no. 2.

On Sunday, April 17, homecoming services begin with Sunday School at 10 a.m., and a special worship service at 11. This will be followed by a dinner on the grounds. There will be no night services.

"Jubilation" is an all male quartet. The group's pianist, Buddy Watts, has written much of the material they perform. Originating from First Church, Magnolia, group members are Ronnie Simmons, Joe Simmons, Dennis Quin, Charles Carruth, and Buddy Watts. Bob Rogers is pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Church of Enid, will be celebrating its 100th birthday on Oct. 9, 1988. The church was first organized on Oct. 8, 1888. There will be dinner and singing in the afternoon. An all day program is planned.

World Missions Conference will be held at Malmaison Church, Carroll Association, April 17-20 at 7:30 p.m.

## Revival dates

Falkner, Falkner: April 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jim Futral, Broadmoor, Jackson, preaching; Mike Parks, Hilldale, Birmingham, music; Jim Ray, pastor.

Springfield (Adams): April 17-20; Randy Turner, pastor, Parkway, Natchez, evangelist; Charles Heltman, interim pastor.

Courtland (Panola): youth revival, April 15-17; Gary Crowell, evangelist; Todd Atkinson, song leader; services, Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Billy J. McDaniel, pastor.

Cliff Temple, Natchez (Adams): youth revival; April 15-17; Randy Bonner, Clarke Memorial, Newton, evangelist; Steve Strebeck, minister of music and youth, Cliff Temple, music; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday service, 11 a.m.; James D. Whittington, pastor.

Big Ridge, Biloxi: April 17-22; Paul Aultman, pastor, First, Ocean Springs, evangelist; singing led by Dennis Dollar; services each evening at 7:15; Robert M. Carlisle, pastor.

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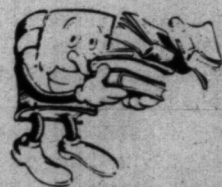
CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	1st Music Gloria	Sgt. Preston Coco Kid	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	The Bible and Life Sunday School Lesson
6	The Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Devil and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
7	First Love Wendell Estep Changed Lives	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Word of Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set Preach of the Yoke
8	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
9	Come Alive Nelson Price	One in The Street Sgt. Preston	Catch the Spirit Sunshine for Life Ken Memphis	The Life Come Alive Nelson Price	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Great Churches of America (II)	Popcorn Theater
10	Catch the FBC, Richmond	Coco Kid	Our World	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	26 Men
11	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Magazine
12	The Baptist Hour	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Profiles Theatre	Word of Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Sunshine Factory	Devil and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
1	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	The Bible and Life Sunday School Lesson
2	"	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Devil and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
3	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Family Foundations Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set Preach of the Yoke
4	1st Music One in The Street	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lame	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
5	Making Life Count Arthur Callender The Life	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston Coco Kid	Popcorn Theater
6	Light ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Country Crossroads
7	Life Together Neal T. Jones	Profiles	Word of Life	"	Catch the Spirit	Prime Times	"
8	The Baptist Hour	Joy Music Truth Alive Perry Sanders	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	For These Times Robert White	Invitation to Life	Strength for Life Ken Memphis	Great Churches of America (II)
9	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	The Bible and Life Sunday School Lesson
10	Joy of Music Gloria	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	The Baptist Hour	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	Devil and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
11	The Life Sunshine Factory	Adventures of The Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (I)	The Life In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston	Sunshine Factory Set Preach of the Yoke
12	"	26 Men	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Coco Kid	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
1	Profiles	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Popcorn Theater
2	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Praise Song COPE	Catch the Spirit COPE	Prime Times COPE	26 Men
3	Gloria	"	"	"	"	"	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Magazine
4	Sunday Selection	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	Ecstasy Theatre	Devil and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow

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## Book reviews

DEVIL ON THE DECK by Lois Hoadley Dick, Fleming H. Revell, \$9.95. This exciting adventure story is a fictionalized account of the early years of John Newton, writer of "Amazing Grace." It takes the reader back to the mid-1700s.

Newton, the rebellious son of a retired sea captain, was taken from boarding school at age 11 and sent to serve as a seaman on a merchant ship. His adventures at sea, as a slave in Africa, and as captain of a slave ship are described with vividness. Only his love for beautiful Polly Catlett sustained him through dangers and tragedies. His sins multiplied, and he claimed not to believe in God. But a terrible storm at sea and miraculous deliverance brought him at last to his knees, and to his realization of God's gift of "Amazing Grace." In later years, he became a pastor and took a bold public stand against slavery. The author of this latest story about

Newton lives in Newton, New Jersey. — AWM

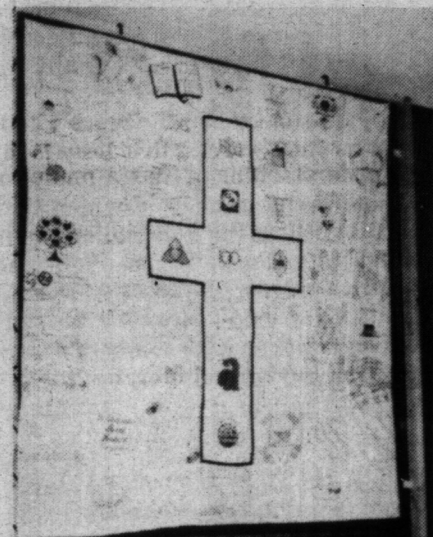
THE HANDBOOK TO BIBLE STUDY; Paul S. Karleen; Oxford University Press; 469 pages; \$24.95.

Rather than a chapter by chapter by chapter commentary, this book is actually three books in one: an overview of the Bible, its language, themes, and literary qualities; a summary of major, fundamental biblical teachings covering in-depth studies of the doctrines of God, the person of Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, humanity, angels, salvation, the church, and future things; and a basic reference section of outlines of books of the Bible, annotated bibliography of books for Bible study, and quick-reference guide to Bible study terms.

This book would be helpful for ministers, Sunday School teachers, or anyone looking for a new approach to Bible study. — IBM

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- Apr. 18 State Bible Drill; FBC, Hernando; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
- Apr. 18 Start-A-Cradle Roll and Grow Conference; FBC, Columbus; 7-9:15 p.m. (SS)
- Apr. 18-22 Baptist Doctrine Study Week (CT Emphasis)
- Apr. 19 State Bible Drill; FBC, Greenville; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
- Start-A-Cradle Roll and Grow Conference; FBC, Meridian; 7-9:15 p.m. (SS)
- Apr. 20 Start-A-Cradle Roll and Grow Conference; E. McComb BC, McComb; 9:30-11:45 a.m. (SS)
- Apr. 21 State Bible Drill; FBC, Brookhaven; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
- Start-A-Cradle Roll and Grow Conference; Crossgates BC, Brandon; 7-9:15 p.m. (SS)
- Apr. 22 State Bible Drill; FBC, Meridian; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
- Apr. 22-23 Area Handbell Festival-Central; Woodland Hills BC, Jackson; 7 p.m., 22nd-2:30 p.m. 23rd (CM)
- April 22-23 GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 22nd-12:30 p.m., 23rd (WMU)
- Apr. 23 Lad/Crusader Day; Central Hills Retreat; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (BRO)



## Boyle quilt provides a new wrinkle

The WMU of First Church, Boyle, chose to make its centennial quilt a family affair. A cross in the center contains the emblems of WMU organizations. The remaining squares were made by and represent the families in the church. The quilt was pieced and quilted by the Baptist Women, Robert Chennault, one of the men in the church, made a frame for it.

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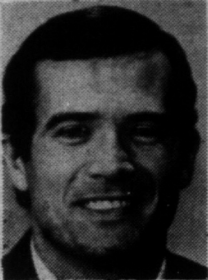
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# God's gracious gift: receive it, "get right with God"

By M. Dean Register

It is impossible to examine the breadth of salvation if we do not realize the depth of our own sinfulness. It is futility to fathom the depths of sinfulness and refuse to throw ourselves upon the mercy of God.



Register

Years ago, I would frequently see a sign on a rural road that boldly declared, "Get Right With God." It was a graphic reminder to unwary travelers that life's priority is first and foremost a relationship with the Lord. The Apostle Paul explains that there is only one way to be right with God. In the third chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, he focuses upon the need and provision of a right standing with God.

Paul states that there is a universality regarding sin because "all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Every person who breathes is a sinner. We may not like the label, but despite our technological ex-

## LIFE AND WORK

pertise, our scientific advancement, and our social standing, we are nevertheless "sinners." The verb "have sinned" is a translation of a Greek verb that expresses the entirety of sin as an historic fact.

The idea is that all persons stand now and have stood from the beginning in a posture of sin before a holy God. The verb "fallen short" is a present tense and emphasizes the continual actuality of unrighteousness. We continually come up short when we attempt to be right with God according to our own standard.

We miss the mark of the "glory of God." The perfection and splendor of God cannot be reflected in humanity because sin prohibits it.

Vance Havner used to say that God "never intended to rub sin in, but to rub sin out." God never condemns sin, but that he offers his gift of salvation as a way out. Consequently, Paul declares the necessity of justification by faith "as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). For a gift

to be appropriated it must be received. A righteous God cannot condone the unrighteous attitudes and actions of humanity. But he has chosen to "declare" us righteous through his only begotten Son when we respond to his gift by faith.

God's act of justification is rendered through his grace. It is free to use, but ever so costly to him. The death of Christ was "a propitiation in his blood" (Rom. 3:24). The two basic meanings of propitiation involve satisfaction and expiation. Christ's death satisfied the wrath of God against sin and his death removed the penalty from sinners. It demonstrated the righteousness of God and the way to be made right with God.

Paul amplifies the doctrine of justification by citing Abraham's testimony of faith. Throughout the third and fourth chapters of Romans, Paul argues that the law (the moral, ceremonial, and legal standard) is unable to make a person right with God. By using Abraham as an example, Paul shows that a person is made right by faith and not by works of the law. Since Abraham didn't earn it, it had

to be a free gift. Abraham's testimony was not given merely as Hebrew history, but "for our sake also, to whom it will be reckoned, as those who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead; he who was delivered up because of our transgressions and was raised because of our justification" (Rom. 4:24-25). Not only was Abraham justified by faith, but everyone also who believes by faith that Jesus is Lord.

Any person, anywhere, under any circumstances can experience the joy of being made right with God when he confesses his own sin and throws himself upon God's grace as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham has said that when he comes to present his credentials at the gate of heaven he will come repeating the words of Charlotte Elliot who wrote:

"Just as I am without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me  
And that thou bid'st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come!"

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

# God has spoken through his Son, the Living Word

By Jimmy G. McGee

Hebrew 1:1-5; 2:1-5, 9-10

God has spoken! God has spoken and we must take heed how we respond to his Word. The way we respond to his Word is the way we respond to his Son, the Living Word.



McGee

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians. The theme is a call to Christian commitment, and it is expressed in the words "Let us go on to perfection..." (6:1). Christians must not stop short of God's intended destiny. They must not go back to Judaism. They must

go on to Christian maturity and world redemption.

Chapters 1-2 of Hebrews introduces God's Son as the complete and final Word of God to man. Jesus is rightly exalted as superior to the prophets and the angels. Jesus is the first born from the dead. He is the Living Word and therefore deserving of man's faith, devotion, and obedience.

Whenever God speaks, his Word stands forever. God has always made his message clear to man. Speaking in many ways — in

## UNIFORM

dreams, visions, symbols, events, and angels and prophets, God's revelation has been progressive but fragmentary and portioned as people were able to receive it. Now in Jesus one whole and complete declaration of God's love, purpose, and redemption is manifest openly. Prophets and angels spoke for God as directed: Jesus spoke as God.

Chapter 1 emphasizes the nature of Jesus' Person as superior to all others. He is superior in person to the prophets, who as men were limited in time and place and understanding.

Verses 2-3 beautifully describe Jesus in a sevenfold statement of Christology. (1) He is the appointed heir of all things, the end and goal for whom all things are created and prepared. (2) He is the primary cause of the ages, creating the world. (3) He is the brightness of glory: In Jesus the other (heavenly) world has broken into this world. (4) He is the express image of God's person. As image, Jesus is not a mirror reflection but the same substance, imprint, and character of God. The word "image" translates the Greek word "Charakter." Jesus said, "He that has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). (5) He upholds all things by the

word of his power and in him all things consist (Col. 1:17). (6) He purged our sins by himself. What the Levitical priests could not do with the offering of animals, he has done in his own body. (7) He is seated at the right hand of God. The right hand is the place of royalty and authority. Seated is the position of completed work. The Levitical priests were always standing, offering continual sacrifice for sins. Jesus once for all, finally and completely, secured our salvation.

Verses 4 and following substantiate the fact that Jesus is so much better than the angels and has a name more excellent than they.

Chapter 2 presents a logical but serious exhortation commanding the believer's response. "Therefore" means because of this (Jesus' person and work). We must give careful heed lest we be passed by. The more important the messenger, the more important the hearer's responsibility in saying yes. If failure to keep the Mosaic law which was given by angels brought serious judgment, how much greater will be the judgment of those not receiving God's certain message through Jesus Christ!

Verse 3 stages the question "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation...?" "So great salvation" summarizes the work of

Jesus in reconciling man to God in the cross. It describes the manner of God's love gift and the fact that it is the only salvation available

"If we neglect" it — make light of it, put off appropriating it, ignore its demands, we shall not "escape" the consequences. To fail to believe is to fail to be saved. To fail to honor Jesus' Lordship is to forfeit the blessings of God's presence and to experience the chastening of the Lord. "Disobedience" is the unwillingness to hearken to God's truth. Jesus has provided for our sins to be forgiven. If we do not accept him, there is no escape. While no saved person can lose his salvation, the believer is in grave danger so long as he neglects the whole counsel of God's salvation.

In verses 9-10, we see Jesus crowned with glory and honor. For a little while, he was made lower than the angels. (I prefer the translation as quoted from Psalm 8, "lower than God.") The meaning is that Jesus was fully human for the purpose of salvation. As a man, he suffered and died to accomplish salvation. He, for whom and by whom are all things, was made perfect through suffering. Jesus' sufferings are necessary to complete God's salvation. Now he is the captain and author of our salvation.

Jimmy G. McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

# Jesus makes preparation for public preaching ministry

By Gayle Alexander

Matthew 3:1 to 4:25

The scripture gives extended birth narratives for men of significant ministries such as Moses, Samuel, Jesus, John the Baptist. John was the forerunner of Jesus. His robe of camel's hair and his leather girdle were probably intentionally similar to Elijah (II Kings 1:8).



Alexander

John saw the coming kingdom of Christ near at hand, and he saw it in terms of judgment (3:7) analogous to an axe, fire, and winnowing fork. Hence, his baptism was one characterized by repentance.

Jesus came to John to be baptized because it was fitting for them "to fulfill all righteousness" (3:15). Several observations need to be made because Matthew was concerned with why Jesus was baptized by John. Matthew is careful to show that the baptism took place at the initiative, and the insistence, of Jesus over the protest of unworthiness of John. Jesus recognized that John's baptism was of God and was proper for Jews. John

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acknowledged his subordination to Jesus. He became one with those who needed to repent, though he was without sin (Hebrews 2:17). Furthermore, he identified himself with the message of John, and his baptism was an open, public commitment to his mission. The "spirit of God descending in the form of a dove" (3:16) fulfilled the predicted sign to John that Jesus was the messiah (John 1:33, Isaiah 11:2, 42:1).

This is one of three times the voice came from heaven (17:5, John 12:28). At his baptism, Jesus accepted both roles of messiah as divine son (Psalm 2) and suffering servant (Isaiah 42:1). Jesus would have an extremely difficult time convincing the disciples of the latter.

That Jesus "was led of the spirit into the wilderness" (4:1) indicates his voluntary submission to the spirit during his earthly ministry. The temptations were in the sense of testing, were basically messianic, and were alternatives to the cross. Had Jesus said yes to any one temptation, he never would have died for our sins. Jesus had to fight again and again the temptation to avoid suffering servant roles

(26:36-46). Jesus refused the wrong means to meet legitimate human needs, such as hunger and freedom.

The people expected the messiah to repeat the miracles of Moses, especially the manna (Exodus 16). Hunger is no sin. But would Messiah be a bread giver to the children of Israel? No! They needed bread, but they needed the word of God more. Jesus's reply was that, "... man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (4:4). "Jesus, who could offer only a narrow gate and an anguished way to his disciples (7:13, 14), could choose no easy way for himself."

The second temptation appealed to popular tradition that Messiah would dramatically appear at the temple (Malachi 3:1-2). Satan, seeking to test Jesus's claim that he lived by every word of God, used scripture himself in the temptation. Jesus would gain a following of people by performing signs and wonders, but the results would not be kingdom citizens. Again, Jesus said no. "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God..." (Deuteronomy 6:16). Such action would be presumption and not faith. A son is

to obey God, not to demand of God.

The third temptation was the climactic one. The people believed that Messiah would give the nation of Israel rule over all the other nations. Jesus had to make a decision with reference to Jewish messianic hopes for deliverance from Rome. He refused to equate the kingdom of God with the kingdom of Israel. In his refusal, Jesus coupled service with worship because one involves the other (Deuteronomy 6:13). To have bowed to Satan would have acknowledged his lordship and such Jesus could not do. Later, Matthew will show that the one who refuses to bow to Satan will be given "all power and all authority in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

Satan left Jesus for a season indicating that Jesus was victorious over the temptation. Not by some thunderbolt from heaven, but by the word of God and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Both of these are open to all believers.

Immediately, Jesus began his public preaching ministry. He too, called the people to repentance to adjust their lives to God and to God's purposes because the kingdom of God was near at hand (4:17).

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.



# Baptist Record



Lisa Johnson of Houston, right, wins the Judges' trophy for keyboard-organ. Dot Pray, keyboard specialist, Church Music Department, MBCB, presents the trophy.



College scholarship winners (keyboard) are, back row, Dot Pray (Church Music Department); Jenny M. Hight, Ocean Springs; Jackie Mitchell, Cleveland; Leonard Raybon, Pascagoula; Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, MBCB; front row, Belinda Wiseman, Southaven; Karla Andrews, Vicksburg; Donna Lewallen, Gautier; and Christie Manasco, Aberdeen.



Karla Andrews, left, and Jenny Hight, right, win the Judges' Trophy for keyboard-piano. Dot Pray, center, presents the awards.



Michael Crawley of Brandon is the college scholarship winner, for \$200 in the conducting area.

## Four Part Festival

## Youths get music scholarship

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, hosted the State Youth Four Part Music Festival, Feb. 20. Participation in the festival is open to youths in grades 10-12.

Keyboard participants must first, receive all superior ratings in all adjudicated areas of category IV piano and advanced organ in the Area Keyboard Festival, which was held in January.

The Church Music Department offers two types of scholarships through this festival. A Baptist Summer Event Scholarship is offered to all youth who earn superior ratings. A college music scholarship is offered to each graduating senior who receives superior ratings in all adjudicated areas. If the participant elects to attend a Mississippi Baptist college, the college music department also presents a matching music scholarship.

The following youths were awarded

a Baptist summer event scholarship — in the vocal area: Gaye Bethany, Lawrence; Lisa Harris, Fulton; McKay Pearce, Purvis; Chad Phillips, Pascagoula; in the keyboard area: Lisa Johnson, Houston; Shelly Langley, Taylorsville; Jenny M. Hight, Ocean Springs; Donna Lewallen, Gautier; Devona Ladner, Sandersville; Jackie Mitchell, Cleveland; Carol J. Patterson, Banner; Leonard Raybon, Pascagoula; Patti Harvey, Vancleave; Kim Townsend, Jackson; Belinda Wiseman, Southaven; Christie Manasco, Aberdeen; Tamra Smith, Southaven; Angela McFetridge, Laurel; Karla Andrews, Vicksburg; — in the conducting area: Michael Crawley, Brandon.

These youths earn \$200 college music scholarships — in the conducting area: Michael Crawley, Brandon; — in the keyboard area: Jeriny Hight, Ocean Springs; Donna Lewallen, Gautier; Jackie Mitchell, Cleveland;

Leonard Raybon, Pascagoula; Belinda Wiseman, Southaven; Christie Manasco, Aberdeen; Karla Andrews, Vicksburg.

Two piano participants, Karla Andrews and Jenny Hight, were both awarded Judges Trophies; one organ participant, Lisa Johnson, was awarded a Judges' Trophy; and one vocal participant, McKay Pearce, was awarded a Judges' Trophy.

## New Choctaw will install Gibson

Clay Gibson was appointed by the Home Mission Board and will be installed as director of missions for the New Choctaw Association at 3 p.m., April 16, at the Pearl River Community Church near Philadelphia. A pot luck dinner will be served at the conclusion of the program.

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
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## "Teacher's pet"

### QUESTION

I am a very good student at a fairly small school. Since I usually make straight As, I have the reputation of being the teacher's pet. Everyone talks behind my back and says I'm trying to be perfect, just because I'm thinking more of my future and preparing myself for a career, instead of just playing around and wasting time. What do you think?

### ANSWER

Working hard to prepare yourself for a good future is an excellent goal. You have chosen to use your energies very wisely, yet your friends may not understand your attitude. They may still be immature and short-sighted when it comes to the value of an education. They may be jealous of your accomplishments, or they may belittle you in order to feel better about themselves.

On the other hand, you may need to check your own attitude. If you

act superior or appear to be trying to impress others, they will turn you off and retaliate by making fun of you. You might check this out by asking a good friend how you come across to others.

Try to think of life as a balance between four important areas: the physical, the mental, the social and the spiritual. You need each of these areas in order to be a well-rounded, healthy person. Too much attention to one area over the others can cause you to be a distorted, unhappy person. Be sure you are achieving this balance even though your major emphasis may be on your studies.

You might even be able to use your intelligence as a bridge to improve the social dimension of your life. Perhaps some of these friends who are making fun of you are having trouble with their own schoolwork. By offering to help them with their studies, you might be able to change their opinion of you and develop some friendships as well as your own personal skills. Remember that the Bible teaches that each person has value in his or her own special way. When we accept ourselves properly, we are free to respect and love others as ourselves.

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## China's scripture press predicts large production

NANJING, China (EP) — Amity Printing Press, a full-service printing plant in its first year of existence, has updated its previous projections of the number of Bibles to be printed in 1988, doubling the original amount.

Amity Printing Press only opened five months ago, but is already running "full-speed, with three full shifts daily," according to a report from the American Bible Society.

Just into the third month of 1988, and after completing 145,000 Chinese Bibles in traditional Chinese characters, the press is "well on its way to finishing production of 100,000 reference Bibles complete with footnotes and other helps for the reader," according to the report. The total number of Bibles is projected to be 600,000 by year's end, twice the original projection of 300,000, as well as an additional 200,000 New Testaments with Psalms in a simplified script that is more intelligible to younger people. Preparations to typeset the Old Testament in simplified Chinese script will make the entire Bible available in this form.

The China Christian Council has placed firm orders for these Scriptures. All will go to Christians in the People's Republic of China, to be

distributed through churches and individuals. None of them are to be shipped overseas.

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**Baptist Record**

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